Both types of steppes,[1] have developed on chestnut-colored 133
soil. Within these steppes salt-pans also appear. Further toward the 137
north the soil becomes darker, its humus content becomes greater (3 per- [134]
cent to 5 percent), it changes into the so-called southern black earth, which has only a slight thickness and has a carbonate layer lying near it. The plant growth becomes richer, the contiguousness of the vegetation covering becomes thicker. These are pronounced grazing areas for sheep and goats. For large livestock they are still not sufficient. For such livestock only the meadow steppes can be considered; these meadow steppes often cover large areas along the rivers. To this category belong the Selenga steppes and the valleys of the Dzhida and the Uda. A similar change in the character of the steppes takes place in the direction of the individual mountain chains, with the various types of steppes surrounding the mountain ranges in Isohypsen /isohyetal?/ contours.

The principal importance of the Selenga steppes lies in livestock 231
breeding, which is intensified by the breeding of valuable breeds. The most important regions here are the areas left of the Selenga and the already mentioned valley of the Dzhida. The old yurts of the Buryat 242
have disappeared, and in their place small, permanent, modest wood houses have appeared which in long rows surround the kolkhoz buildings of the concentrated livestock economy. However, in the less favorable grazing areas, as in the Kundara steppe east of Kyakhta, the old Buryat life has been retained. For processing the resulting skins, a rather large 282
leather processing plant has been erected here on the middle Chikoy under the name of Chikoyskiy Zavod. This plant also draws its raw materials from Mongolia. The cultivation of grain is more in the fore- 241
ground in the other regions on the right side of the Selenga, especially on the lower courses of the Chikoy and the Khilok.

The broad steppe valley of the Uda is the second most important 231
animal breeding area in the Buryat-Mongol ASSR, especially since here numerous Russians have been drawn into animal breeding. In the area 361
around the upper course of the Uda, in the region of the Yeravninsk plain, which is rich in lakes, numerous Russian villages have come into [234]
being in which, in addition to slight agriculture, excellent dairy farming is pursued. The largest localities in this region are Gunda and Sosnovo-Ozerskoye.

East of the Selenga, rising from its delta, is the mountain ridge 133
of the Ulan-Burgassy, which forms the watershed between the Uda and the Turka, which empties into Lake Baykal. This mountain range is broader than the Khamar-Daban and has a marked plateau-like surface

[1] [i.e. artemisian and meadow steppes -- Analyst]